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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2600

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
Toshihisa SARUTA, et al. : EXAMINER: Not Assigned  
SERIAL NO.: 09/442,646 :  
FILED: November 18, 1999 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2722  
FOR: METHOD OF NORMALITY :  
DECISION WITH REGARD TO  
INK CARTRIDGE AND  
PRINTER ACTUALIZING THE  
METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to consideration of the above-identified application, please amend the  
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 19 are amended as follows:

Sub  
B1  
1. (Once Amended) A method of determining whether a storage unit included in an  
ink cartridge is normal, wherein the ink cartridge is configured to be detachably attached to a  
printer, the method comprising the steps of:

A1  
(a) reading a piece of decision information that has been registered in advance in a  
predetermined format, from the storage unit; and

(b) identifying whether the read-out piece of decision information satisfies the  
predetermined format, so as to determine whether the storage unit is normal.